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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 15 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal dated 14 September 2003, expressing the views of the Senegalese Government on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 10 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/58/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

Today, Sunday, 14 September 2003, at 6.10 a.m., the Chief of Staff of the Guinea-Bissau Army, General Verissimo Seabra, informed by telephone the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, of the decision by the Guinea-Bissau military to depose President Kumba Yala. He stated that the military had no intention of maintaining power, but wished to establish a transition period in order to organize free and democratic elections in cooperation with the international community.

President Wade first inquired about the situation of President Yala and his family. He was assured that they were in good health and safe. The military added that they were free to remain in Guinea-Bissau or to go abroad.

President Wade reminded the officers of the position of the African Union, which does not recognize any power resulting from a coup d'état, and requested them to return power to President Yala, who had been democratically elected, and to restore constitutional order. He advised them to reconsider their position and not to announce the taking of power.

President Wade immediately contacted President John Kufuor of Ghana (current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) and President Olesegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. He informed them of the discussions that he had had with the Guinea-Bissau military. The two Presidents approved of his position, which they considered to be in accordance with the positions and statutes of the African Union, and encouraged him to maintain contact on behalf of ECOWAS.

Since the Guinea-Bissau military had announced their decision on radio, President Wade contacted them again through Mr. Montero, spokesman for the "National Transition Council".

President Wade is following the situation and maintaining contact with the authorities of ECOWAS.

Dakar, 14 September 2003